AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a surface having a plurality of cells, each cell in said plurality having a corresponding plurality of nanostructures disposed between said surface and an electrolyte fluid;

a vitrifying ~~an altering~~ substance or an altering compound disposed in end-of-life cells such that said vitrifying substance or said altering compound is separated from said electrolyte fluid by said nanostructures ~~on said surface~~; and

means for contacting said electrolyte fluid with said vitrifying substance or said altering compound ~~altering substance~~ in at least a first cell in said plurality of cells ~~in a way~~ such that, upon contacting said vitrifying substance or said altering compound ~~altering substance~~, at least a portion of said electrolyte is substantially immobilized or altered.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said means for contacting comprises means for decreasing the angle of contact between said electrolyte and said nanostructures ~~in a way~~ such that said electrolyte penetrates said nanostructures.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said means for decreasing comprises means for applying a voltage to said nanostructures.

4. (currently amended) An apparatus for neutralizing an electrolyte fluid, comprising:

a surface having a plurality of cells, each cell in said plurality having a corresponding plurality of nanostructures disposed between said surface and said electrolyte fluid;

a vitrifying substance or an altering compound ~~neutralizing substance~~ disposed on said surface; and

a voltage generator for applying a voltage to said nanostructures,

wherein, upon said voltage being applied to said nanostructures, the angle of contact between said electrolyte and said nanostructures decreases in a way such that said electrolyte penetrates said nanostructures, thus contacting said vitrifying substance or said altering compound ~~neutralizing substance~~.

5. (currently amended) A method for altering an electrolyte liquid in a battery, said battery comprising an electrode, said electrode comprising a surface having a plurality of nanostructures disposed thereon, said surface divided into a plurality of end-of-life cells, said method comprising:

selectively passing a voltage across a portion of the nanostructures in said end-of life cells in a way such that said electrolyte fluid penetrates said nanostructures and contacts a vitrifying substance or an altering compound ~~altering substance~~ on said surface.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said vitrifying ~~altering~~ substance comprises multifunctional monomers and polymerization initiators ~~a neutralizing substance~~.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said multifunctional monomers comprises one or more acryamide, vinyl alcohol, polyethyleneglycol 400 diacrylate or acrylic acid monomers ~~A method for altering an electrolyte liquid in a battery, said battery comprising an electrode, said electrode comprising a surface divided into a plurality of end-of-life cells, said method comprising:~~

~~selectively passing a voltage across a portion of said surface in said end-of life cells in a way such that said electrolyte fluid contacts an altering substance on said surface~~.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said altering compound ~~substance~~ comprises a neutralizing substance.

9. (new) The method of claim 8, wherein said altering compound comprises calcium hydroxide.

10. (new) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said vitrifying substance comprises multifunctional monomers and polymerization initiators.

11. (new) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein multifunctional monomers comprises one or more acryamide, vinyl alcohol, polyethyleneglycol 400 diacrylate or acrylic acid monomers.

12. (new) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is a battery.

13. (new) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said apparatus is a thermostat.